79. In the Panch Mahâls an area of 60 acres was fenced with wire and sown in furrows 3 feet apart, but unfortunately the early promise of this plantation was falsified owing to the area being traversed by fire.

80. A total of 39,555 acres was treated at a cost of Rs. 1,948 under the head of "Cultural Operations" and Rs. 325 were spent on regular plantation during the year.

(3).—*Early Thinning.*

81. No such operations were carried out in this Circle.

(4).—*Other operations for the improvement of the growing Stock.*

82. Creeper cutting by forest guards was carried out as usual, but these men have so much to do that not nearly enough of this work is done and the whole establishment have their hands so full with the yearly increasing work in connection with the coupes that it is impossible to make any organized attempt to do this work with this agency. In West Thâna, however, an effort was made to clear away the "bindukli" (Loranthus longiflora, a species of mistletoe) by paid labour from the standards reserved in the coupes. This operation cost Rs. 108.

(5).—*Experiments.*

83. The Vejâlpur nursery, near Tithal in Surat, reported under this head last year (para. 130), has been transferred to plantations and noticed above. No other experiment is reported as having been tried during the year.

(*d*).—Exploitation of Major Forest Produce.

84. The Thâna forests continue to be worked on a system of coppice with standards with a revolution of 40 years. The reservation of standards is theoretically made to depend on the local conditions. The operation, therefore, varies from coppice with a few reserves to a fairly heavy improvement felling. It is evident that the controlling officers can do little personally in selecting reserves, but as the executive subordinates gain experience and are more and more composed of trained men, this selection of standards in accordance with local conditions will become more and more an important factor in forest working. As far as possible, the trees are sold standing under a contract for each coupe, the price being fixed in a lump sum for each coupe by public sale. Coupes for which no price, or only an inadequate one, can be obtained are worked departmentally, when local conditions require that leaf manure and wood for local consumption should be supplied. In the 284 blocks into which the forest area of the two Thâna divisions is provisionally divided, 276 coupes were laid out for exploitation during the year (coupes were not laid out in the other blocks because either they are classed as "climatic" and exempted from working or because owing to settlement in progress it was thought undesirable to work them). Of these, 126 were sold in each of the two divisions, but in addition to these, 40 coupes which had remained unsold in past years in East Thâna were sold and exploited. The total area brought under the axe was 8,029½ acres in East Thâna and 6,450 acres in West Thâna.

85. In one block only in East Thâna was it found necessary to exploit the coupe departmentally.

86. In the Surat Division exploitation was limited to the Dângs leased forests in which 11,213 cubic feet of green teak were exploited by selection felling, these forests not yet having come under organization. In the rest of the division the forests were not worked, the demand being met from revenue lands outside forests.

87. In the Panch Mahâls the forests were not worked, the material required to meet the demand being obtained from lands outside forest.

(*e*).—Extraction and Transport of Major Forest Produce by Land and Water.

88. There is nothing to be added to what was recorded under this head last year.